MICROFILMED BY

HISTORICAL COMMISSION

SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION

127 NINTH AVENUE, NORTH · NASHVILLE 3, TENNESSEE

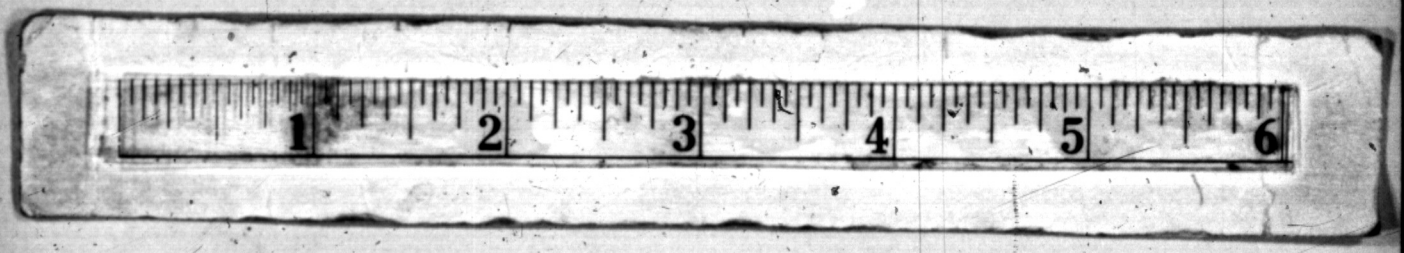
MINUTES

OF

ASSOCIATIONS

MISSISSIPPI

PUB. NO. 225


1
2
3
4
5
6

Oxford Baptist
Association
org. 1870
1870 - 1920

(1921 - 1925
Locking)

Clinton, Mississippi
November 6,1950

Mrs. Lucy M. Rice,
Charleston, Mississippi

Dear Mrs. Rice:

Your letter with request to hand. And since I was particularly interested in Brother Rockett, I have assembled the following data regarding him which, I thought, might be of interest to you and the church:

His name first appears in our records in the Oxford Association minute of 1873, listed as a Licentiate, post office, Taylor's Depot, Lafayette County. The following year his name is listed in the ordained ministers' column. In 1875, he is reported as pastor of the Yocona (or Tocowa) church, doubtless his first pastorate; and that year he was made chairman of the Comm. on Foreign Missions. From that time on he was one of the outstanding leaders of the Oxford Association, serving as Moderator two years, 1893 and 1894.

In 1876, he became pastor of the Water Valley church, continuing to 1884, when the membership stood at 130, the largest in the association, the next largest being Good Hope with 104. He continued in the Oxford Association for the most part till 1908, when he is listed as residing at Charleston where he remained for two years. In 1910, he is at Sallis, but in 1913 is back at Courtland, Lafayette County, where had resided and served the local Baptist church for many years before going to Charleston. His last pastorates were with the Courtland, Tocowa and Pope Baptist churches in Oxford Association.

The Oxford Association minute of Sept. 1915 carries the report of the Obituary Comm. from which I gather the following:

'Eld. H.W.Rockett

'Brother Rockett was born and reared in Lafayette County, Miss. and educated at Mississippi College.....Our beloved Brother Rockett was likewise one of our strongest men; a student of splendid scholarship, a superb sermonizer, and a delightful preacher, never failing to interest and help every thoughtful hearer. He was no less delightful and helpful around the fireside. He loved his listeners, and was a delightful companion. He was modest in his bearing, and withal an ideal Christian gentleman, but bold in his defense of the doctrines of his denomination. He was conservative and gentlemanly in his conduct toward those who differed with him

'The greater part of Brother Rockett's ministerial life was spent in pastoral work in the bounds of this Association. He was a good pastor, and wise and safe in counsel.

'We miss him from the services of this body, but we shall ever cherish

his memory. May his mantle fall on some younger man to whom the Lord will give a double portion of His spirit.

'After a lingering illness, our beloved fell on sleep, at his home in Courtland, Miss., on Feby. 15,1915.

'Respectfully submitted.
W.I.Hargis,J.W.Lee, J.W.Higginbotham'.

A PERSONAL WORD: The writer of these lines was never acquainted with Brother Rockett, nor conversant with these facts about his life and labors. And as I have traced them this day, I am constrained to bow my head in reverence to his name and memory, and offer thanksing to God that I have been the recipient of a choice portion of his valuable library. And I wonder if I am not the younger man upon whom his mantle has fallen.

Having graduated from the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in June 1914, I was serving my first Mississippi pastorate at Coldwater, Tate County, Miss. when sometime in the early 1915 a letter came to me, asking that come to Batesville, Miss. and call on Mrs. H.W.Rockett. When I reached her home, she told me of her husband's death and of her desire that his books might be so distributed as to be of the greatest use and benefit to any young preachers who would taket them. She sent me up stairs to look them through and to take any and all that I thought might be of benefit in my work as a young preacher.

It was one of the greatest surprises of my life. (I was so elated that I did not know what to say, or ask who gave her my name. And I am glad I did not make that blunder. I've thought that Brother J.W.Lee might have done it)

After going throught the large collection of books and sorting out the ones I wanted, I was really embarrassed to let her see howmmany I had picked out for myself. (Being a beginner I didn't have many books, and I admit I must have shown greediness, since too I was the first that had a chance at them) Those books, particularly the New Testament Greek Lexicons etc. have been a boon to me through the years---his markings and marginal notes were so helpful!

I thanked Mrs. Rockett the best I knew how for her generous offer. And Mrs. Rice, if you know that she is still living and will send me her address, I shall try again to show my gratitude.

Very sincerely,

Mississippi Baptist
Historical Society

J.L.Boyd, Custodian